creation of a new post of post Master General, at Aurangabad (M.S.);

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Aurangabad region is presently covering; more than ten districts with its Director as head of the department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) A representation from the All India Postal Employees Union, Parbhani Branch, has been received in this regard and the same is under consideration.

(c) Aurangabad region under the control of a Regional Director of Postal Services is presently covering more than ten districts. However, the Regional Director is not vested with the powers of Head of the Department.

Automatic telephone exchanges in Tamil Nadu

1580. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cities in Tamil Nadu having automatic telephone exchanges;

(b) what are the criteria for installing automatic electronic exchanges; and

(c) what are the names of cities in Tamil Nadu where automatic/electronic exchanges are proposed to be installed during the Eighth Five Yea$_r$ Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STAT$_E$ IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO); (a) and (b) The State of Tamil Nadu has telephone exchanges in 1219 places, out of which 1185 places have Automatic Telephone Exchanges.

The Seventh Five Year Plan Objective was to automatise all District Headquarters and to convert all Manual Exchanges of 1000 lines capacity and above.

(c) The Eighth Plan proposals are still to be finalised.

STD facilities in district headquarters and cities of Tamil Nadu

1581. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS *be* pleased to state;

(a) whether all the district headquarters and cities having $_a$ population of more than one lakh in Tamil Nadu have been linked with Delhi and Madras through STD-

(b) if riot, the number of district headquarters and such cities which are yet to be linked with STD;

(c) whether there i$_s$ any scheme to link district headquarters and such cities by STD; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO); (a) No, Sir.

(b) One District Headquarter is yet to be provided with this facility while all the' cities in Tamilnadu having a population of more than one lakh have been provided with this facility.

(C) There is a scheme to, provide STD facility to all District Headquarters by March 1990.

(d) Cuddalore i$_s$ the only District Headquarter in Tamil Nadu which is yet to be provided with this facility, STD facility at this place would become feasible soon after the commissioning of an automatic Telephone exchange in 1989-90. As an interim measure Manual Subscriber Trunk Dialling service has been provided at Cuddalore.